

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the pre-rinse step is accomplished initially without heating the rinsing liquid.
- 3-7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the determination of the length of time required for turbidity of the rinsing liquid to stop increasing, the turbidity values, and the difference value is repeated at least once with a change in and heating of the rinsing liquid.
- 9-23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning dishes in a dishwasher in accordance with a programmed wash cycle implemented by a central control unit and comprising a rinse step and a cleaning step where a rinsing liquid is recirculated in the dishwasher, the dishwasher comprising an upper spraying apparatus defining an upper spray plane and a lower spraying apparatus defining a lower spray plane, the method comprising:
~~determining a degree of soiling of the rinsing liquid by~~ determining turbidity values corresponding to the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the lower spray plane and the upper spray plane, respectively, the lower and upper spray planes alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid and the determined turbidity values being associated with the respective spray plane in operation;
determining a degree of soiling by determining a difference value
corresponding to the difference between the turbidity values of the upper and lower spray planes; and
setting at least one operating parameter of at least one of the rinse step and the cleaning step based on the determined degree of soiling.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the determination of the degree of soiling occurs during a pre-rinse step.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the pre-rinse step comprises a portion of the rinse step.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the setting of the at least one operation parameter comprises setting at least one of a) a number of rinse steps to be performed, b) a duration of a rinse step, c) a water temperature of a rinse step, d) a duration of the cleaning step, e) a time at which dosing the rinsing liquid with a cleaning agent occurs, f) draining and refilling of the rinsing liquid, g) draining of the rinsing liquid, and h) drying time.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~28~~24, wherein the determining of the turbidity values corresponds to the turbidity when the turbidity is no longer increasing upon the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the lower spray plane and the upper spray plane, respectively.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the determining of the turbidity values comprises alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid in the lower and upper spray planes until the turbidity stops increasing for both the lower and upper spray planes.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, and further comprising determining of a length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing for both the lower and upper spray planes.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the setting of the at least one operating parameter is based on at least one of the difference value and the length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the setting of the at least one operating parameter comprises setting the duration of the rinse step, water temperature of the rinse step, and additional water for the rinse step.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the difference value is derived continuously from the turbidity values of the lower and upper spray planes.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the turbidity is obtained from a turbidity sensor.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the rinsing liquid is categorized based on the determined degree of soiling, and the setting of the at least one operation parameter is based on the categorization.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the setting of the at least one operation parameter comprises setting at least one of a) a number of rinse steps to be performed, b) a duration of a rinse step, c) a water temperature of a rinse step, d) a duration of the cleaning step, e) a time at which dosing the rinsing liquid with a cleaning agent occurs, f) draining and refilling of the rinsing liquid, g) draining of the rinsing liquid, and h) drying time.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning dishes in a dishwasher in accordance with a programmed wash cycle implemented by a central control unit and comprising a rinse step and a cleaning step where a rinsing liquid is recirculated in the dishwasher, the dishwasher comprising a first and second set of spray nozzles, the method comprising:

- alternately operating the first and second set of spray nozzles;
- determining a first turbidity value associated with the operation of the first set of spray nozzles;
- determining a second turbidity value associated with the operation of the second set of spray nozzles;
- determining a degree of soiling of the rinsing liquid based on a difference value corresponding to the difference between the first and second turbidity values; and
- setting at least one operating parameter of at least one of the rinse step and the cleaning step based on the determined degree of soiling.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the determining of the turbidity values corresponds to the turbidity when the turbidity stops increasing during the circulation of the rinsing liquid in the first set of spray nozzles and the second set of spray nozzles, respectively.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42, further comprising:

- determining a length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing for the first and second set of spray nozzles, the setting of the at least one operating parameter being based on at least one of the difference value and the length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 42 further comprising determining a length of time required for turbidity of the rinsing liquid to stop increasing for the first and second set of spray nozzles, the determination of the length of time required for turbidity of the rinsing liquid to stop increasing, the turbidity values, and the difference value being repeated at least once with a change in and heating of the rinsing liquid.